

# Hiram Herald

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## Attention Hiram Veterans: You've Earned Services

Citizens of Hiram:

As Memorial Day and July 4 approach, the City Council and I want to say "thank you" to our veterans for giving us the freedom we have here in the United States. Without your service and dedication we would not have this right.

The Georgia Department of Veteran Services is here to serve you – the men and women of our area who have served in the United States military and hold in their possession a DD214 official (honorable or medical) discharge document.

Veterans, are you aware that as a veteran you have already earned certain rights and privileges even if you never served a day during an American wartime effort?

All veterans who take their DD214 to an office of the Georgia Department of Veteran Services will receive a form enabling them to receive a Georgia's driver's license indicating their veteran status. Wartime veterans do not pay for their motor vehicle licensing, and all veterans have their car licensing fee waived. Veterans have the choice of a license indicating the branch of service or the wartime effort they performed.

Veterans who have served one day or more during a wartime period have addi-

tional services depending on personal circumstances. The wartime veteran and spouse may be eligible for a pension, health benefits, tax breaks and numerous other opportunities. All can be discovered by a trip to an office of the Georgia Department of Veteran Services.

Offices in our area include:

**Marietta:** 1150 Powder Springs Street (Suite 350), 770-528-3254, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Cartersville:** 320 W. Cherokee Avenue (Room 105), 770-387-3746, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.)

**Carrollton:** 180 Martin Drive (Room E-083) Trinka Davis Veterans Village Outpatient Clinic, 404-321-6111 ext. 2589 or 2554, weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Veterans are also encouraged to take their DD214 to the Paulding County Recorder of Deeds Office and place a copy on file for future reference regarding death benefits. All this saves time and family stress when life's crossroads are



confronted.

A veterans identification driver's license is also accepted by many business and services providers for discounted purchases.

There are numerous services available to veterans who served our country during wartimes. That military service does not have to be in the region or the conflict but during the time of the war conflict.

Vietnam veterans have specific benefits that apply solely to them, and the Department of Veteran Services can aid in determining that eligibility. Educational benefits, pensions for widows and widowers, financial assistance for low-income veteran families and health services are all areas that can be addressed if the personal situation meets the designated criteria.

All these benefits have been established to provide veterans with services already earned. If they are not used, the possibility exists that the funding could be eliminated.

Americans want proud United States veterans to have all earned benefits. And, most important, we THANK YOU sincerely for your service to our country!

—Mayor Doris Ann Devey

(Information provided by Rita Norris and Paula Flipin)

## SPLOST Dollars Invested in Capital Improvements

By City Manager Robbie Rokovitz

What is SPLOST?

SPLOST is a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax and is a financing method for funding capital outlay projects. Capital outlay projects are defined as major projects of a permanent, long-lived nature, such as land and structures.



A SPLOST is passed by a County Commission, usually with the agreement of its City Councils, and voted up or down by residents in a referendum. It is an optional 1% sales tax levied by any County for the purpose of funding the building of parks, roads and bridges, and public safety equipment. The revenue generated, however, cannot be used toward operating and maintenance expenditures.

Back in November 2010, the citizens of Paulding County and Hiram approved the current SPLOST referendum. The City of Hiram negotiated with the County to receive 5.64% of the total amount collected within the County.

The County receives 87.16%, and Dallas receives 7.2%. These

percentages are based on U.S. Census population. However, Hiram received a larger share for streets, roads and bridges due to the paving projects our City has to address.

Hiram's 5.64% is divided among three areas: parks, roads and police. Twenty percent or \$1,071,600 is allocated to parks; 20% or \$1,071,600 is allocated to police; and 60% or \$3,214,800 is allocated to roads, streets and bridges.

That total of 100% equates to approximately \$5,358,000 collected from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2017. This means that another SPLOST referendum will be sought in November 2016. If passed, it would be a continuation of SPLOST from 2017 to 2023.

Since July 2011, the City of Hiram has expended \$2,354,743 of the SPLOST allocation on capital outlay projects. Of this total, \$404,641 has been spent on park projects, \$535,463 has been spent on police equipment and projects, and \$1,417,369 has been spent on streets, roads and bridge projects. The latter also includes sidewalks, streetscapes and stormwater projects.

In addition to the capital improvements to streets and facilities, some of the Council-approved projects over the last few years

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# Qualifying for Mayor, City Council Posts Aug. 31-Sept. 4

Hiram voters will choose their mayor and representatives for City Council Posts 1 and 2 in this year's municipal General Election Nov. 3.

All races and candidacies are citywide with no districts or geographical boundaries for anyone qualifying to run for elected office, and all registered voters within Hiram City limits can vote in all races. Hiram municipal elections are nonpartisan and are not preceded by party primaries.

Candidates must be qualified voters at least age 21 by Nov. 3 and must have lived in Hiram for at least 12 months prior to election day. Qualifying is at City Hall Monday, Aug. 31, through Friday, Sept. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Qualifying



fees are \$270 for Mayor and \$90 for City Council posts.

Hiram residents can cast ballots from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, at Hiram Community Center, 219 Main Street.

Municipal elections are conducted in accordance with the Georgia Election Code and the City of Hiram Charter. Elected officials will take their oath of

office the first meeting in January immediately following their election and serve four-year terms.

Questions about voter registration, qualifying and the General Election can be directed to the City Clerk at 770-943-3726, ext. 2025.

## Children Will Enjoy New Playground Features This Summer

New playground equipment and playground surface at Ben Hill Strickland Park should be ready for child play soon after Hiram's annual Red, White and Boom! celebration July 3.

Mayor Doris Devey and the City Council have authorized up to \$150,000 in SPLOST funding for the first phase of play area upgrades at the City park. Work will start with the largest playground next to the park's tennis courts.

GameTime won the contract after bids were solicit-



ed in April.

The project includes not only new playground equipment but a new play surface to ensure a safe environment as well. City staff is working out details for site preparation and installation of the new equipment, which will take several weeks.

Installation after the Red, White and Boom! event would have delayed usage until September and not allowed children to enjoy the new playground during the summer months.

## Camp Hornet Summer Camp 7 Weeks of Adventures, Learning

The City of Hiram continues investment in its young people with this year's annual Camp Hornet Summer Camp beginning June 8 and continuing for seven weeks.

Some campers and staffers return every year for the camp at Hiram's Oak Street building. Camp Hornet offers a variety

of activities, field trips and educational presentations hosted by a number of local businesses and organizations.

The camp is funded by fees of \$800 per child and by the City of Hiram with approval by the City's Mayor and Council.

"Hiram offers this



Summer Camp as a great opportunity to provide a community program for the youths in our area," said City Manager Robbie Rokovitz. "This camp program has become a real investment in the youth in our community – ensuring these kids have a safe and educational environment to spend their

summer days. Camp Hornet's summer tradition is learning, activities, adventures, lasting friendships and lots of fun."

Anyone interested in donating, sponsoring or volunteering to support Camp Hornet and its summer program is asked to contact Hiram City Hall at 770-943-3726, ext. 2025.

## SPLOST Projects Making Hiram Even Better Place to Live

### Continued from Page 1

include but are not limited to: the renovation of Ben Hill Strickland Park; the acquisition of the old Regions Bank building which was renovated for The Events Place; the construction of a digital welcome sign on Highway 278 at our city limits; a streetscape project on Seaboard Avenue and Powder Springs Street which included decorative street lights; the con-

struction of the Hiram Hound Dog Park; the purchase of police vehicles and related equipment including lasers and a mandated radio system; acquisition of a Public Works facility in a light industrial zone; construction of a downtown streetscape which include sidewalks and street lights along Main Street, which is currently under way; and replacing the playground equipment at Ben Hill Strickland Park, which is now under way.

We welcome any input from the community on projects they would like the Council to consider and prioritize. This is particularly important as we will be entering negotiations to renew SPLOST in the very near future.

As always, I am available to you to answer any questions about SPLOST or any other municipal service we provide for you, your family, your neighborhood, and visitors to Hiram, Georgia.



## Hiram Calendar

**June 23** - City Council special session  
**June 8** - Camp Hornet starts  
**June 23** - City Council special session  
**July 3** - Independence Day; City Hall closed  
**July 3** - Red, White & Boom! Strickland Park  
**July 7** - City Council regular session  
**July 21** - City Council work session  
**Aug. 4** - City Council regular session  
**Aug. 25** - City Council work session  
**Aug. 30-Sept. 4** - Qualifying for Nov. 3 Municipal Election  
**Sept. 1** - City Council regular session  
**Sept. 7** - Labor Day; City Hall closed  
**Municipal Court arraignments**  
 June 4, July 9, Aug. 6, Sept. 3  
**Municipal Court trials**  
 June 22, July 20, Aug. 24, Sept. 14

## June 23 Hearing on City Budget Open to Public

The public is welcome at a public hearing June 23 on Hiram's Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

The first public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year spanning from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, was June 2.

The June 23 public hearing begins at 6:30 p.m. at Hiram Community Center. Budget discussions include the General Fund, SPLOST and other revenues and expenditures for FY2016.



City, County, State and Chamber of Commerce leaders are supporting Hiram's sanitary sewer project that will serve businesses and some residences in and near the historic downtown area.

## Downtown Sewer Project Under Way

Significant construction activity downtown these days will help revitalize business opportunities in Hiram's central district.

The sanitary sewer infrastructure being installed is to serve the downtown commercial area, as well as some residents near the sewer lines.

Hiram's share of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax revenues and the City's capital reserves are funding the project, which includes a lift station, force main and gravity lines.

The Paulding County Water & Sewer Department will own the infrastructure and be responsible for maintenance and operations. City staff will provide billing services for anyone choosing to connect to the sewer system, remitting payments to the County under an intergovernmental agreement.

New sewer customers will be responsible for one-time tap fees that Paulding County Water &

Sewer has set for residential and various commercial structures.

Then customers will pay monthly charges based on water usage. Fee schedules for the tap and usage rates can be seen at [www.paulding.gov](http://www.paulding.gov).

Downtown homes have septic tanks, and downtown businesses have always had to use a septic field on land between City Hall and State Route 92. Lack of a sanitary sewer system has limited operations and growth in Hiram's downtown area.

"Attracting new businesses into downtown, such as restaurants, is not a possibility without access to a sanitary sewer system," said City Manager Robbie Rokovitz. "Without sewer, downtown Hiram loses its ability to be vibrant and retain and recruit noteworthy businesses, as well as compete with the other commercial sectors in the City."



## Crosson, Austin Newest Officers

Joseph Crosson, left, and Matthew Austin have emerged from a crowded field of candidates to become the newest Hiram Police officers.



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Doris Devey, Mayor  
 Kathy Bookout, Post 2, Mayor Pro Tem  
 Prather "Pep" Rollins, Post 1  
 Teresa Philyaw, Post 3  
 Derrick Battle, Post 4  
 Kathy Carter, Post 5  
 Robbie Rokovitz, City Manager

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of the past, present  
and future*

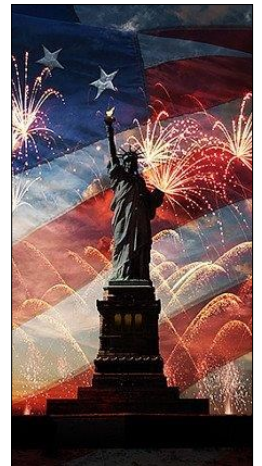
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## Red, White & Boom! Celebration at Park July 3

Hiram again celebrates national independence with its annual Red, White & Boom! event from 6-10 p.m. Friday, July 3, at Ben Hill Strickland Sr. Memorial Park, 372 Oak St. The celebration includes an extended fireworks show, performances by local musicians and concessions from local restaurants and food vendors. Admission, parking and shuttle service are free. Details are available at [bbray@hiram-ga.gov](mailto:bbray@hiram-ga.gov), [jpalm-er@hiram-ga.gov](mailto:jpalm-er@hiram-ga.gov) and [www.hiram-ga.gov](http://www.hiram-ga.gov).



## Hiram Hounds Dog Park Gives Canines Place to Play

Canine members of Hiram families have a new place to run and play safely in the City.

The Hiram City Council had a "leash-cutting ceremony" May 9 for the dog park constructed on land the Council acquired from Paulding County at Homer Leggett Park off Seaboard Avenue.

"The City Council believes it was important to help those who have four-legged family members who need a place to enjoy a passive and active environment," said City Manager Robbie Rokovitz. After some planning, coordination and designating SPLOST funding for fencing, Hiram opened Hiram Hounds Dog Park the second Saturday in May.

The dog park consists of three separate areas specifically designed for different size breeds. Each area is completely fenced in with five-foot, plastic-coated, commercial-grade fencing. The entrances to each area are double-gated

so dogs already engaged in open play inside cannot escape.

One of the three areas for open play is 14,500 square feet. This area is for any size breed. However, the pet owner/handler must use discretion because dogs of any size are permitted.

Two other separate areas are designated for large and small breeds, each separately fenced. The small-breed area is open to dogs 35 pounds and less and is about 3,850 square feet. The large-breed area is open to dogs 35 pounds and larger and is about 5,456 square feet. Each area will be identified with signs and have rules posted for usage.

Rules are in place for the



The grounds within the small- and large-breed areas are not yet fully prepared and were not open to the public at the grand opening. However, staff is working diligently to prepare these areas so Hiram's four-legged citizens may enjoy a safe and fun play environment in the near future.

The City is looking for sponsors and contributors to help make the park more interactive for pets and their owners/handlers. The Council would eventually like to have some water features, agility structures, benches and anything else to make the experience more enjoyable.

Anyone willing to donate items or volunteer time and services to make Hiram Hounds Dog Park an even better place is encouraged to contact City Hall at 770-943-3726.

safety of the pets and those who accompany them. These rules are not codified and not enforced under any City ordinance, so self-policing is necessary. But those found behaving in a reckless and less than safe manner can be subject to other violations such as disorderly conduct and can be issued criminal trespass warnings banning them from future park use.

## Streetscape Project Will Link Downtown with Silver Comet Trail

The City Council is considering a bid of \$1,084,603 for a streetscaping project that makes significant aesthetic and infrastructure improvements along Hiram's Main Street.

Streetscaping would entail sidewalks, curb and gutter, decorative streetlights, new water service lines and roadway paving. The project will also connect to the recently completed streetscaping along Powder Springs Street and Seaboard Avenue.

Completion will provide pedestrians with safe, convenient sidewalks linking downtown Hiram with the Silver Comet Trail, enhancing opportunities for economic and tax revenue growth in the historic downtown district.

The project will also improve motor vehicle safety with reconfigura-

tion of the intersection of Main Street at Powder Springs Street and North Avenue. A north-bound turning lane on Main Street will improve alternatives for motorists continuing straight on Powder Springs Street or turning left onto North Avenue.

Plans also include prohibiting vehicles traveling south on Main Street from turning onto Powder Springs Street since they have to travel on the wrong side of Powder Springs Street to make that turn.

In addition, a potential bid award of \$169,613 would extend sidewalks and streetlights northeast on Main Street to the railroad tracks just before Main Street changes to Angham Road.

Hiram's share of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is funding the project.

**This publication made possible through tourism and trade dollars generated by our local hotels and motels**